

**COMMEMORATION OF THE 70TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NEW BRUNSWICK, NJ, BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL WOMEN, INC.**

• Mr. BRADLEY. Mr. President, today the New Brunswick Business and Professional Women will commemorate a significant anniversary, and I rise to express my admiration for all the organization has done and to offer my congratulations on this very special occasion.

The New Brunswick Business and Professional Women was chartered 70 years ago this month. A leader in the women's movement, its motto has always been "Women Helping Women." In pursuit of this goal, the New Brunswick organization works to expand economic opportunities for women and to improve the status of women in business and the professions. I commend its many dedicated members, who, through the years, have supported programs of social advocacy, social justice and social outreach in the community.

The New Brunswick Business and Professional Women will be celebrating seven decades of civic service today. Generations have been touched by its good efforts. I am pleased to have this opportunity to pay tribute to its longevity and to record this impressive milestone in the pages of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. •

**HONORING BERNIE MCKINLEY**

• Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I would like to acknowledge the accomplishments of Bernard L. McKinley of Waterloo, IA. Bernie is an individual truly committed to philanthropy and the love of mankind.

Bernie has generously given his time to serve in leadership capacities for campaigns conducted by more than 10 human-service agencies in as many years. He not only gives from the heart and convinces others to do so, he brings motivation and excitement to every campaign he works on.

Black Hawk County, and its communities and people, have been strengthened and enhanced by this caring man whose philosophy of life is to always give back more than he receives. •

**OPPOSITION TO ERISA WAIVERS IN H.R. 2264**

• Mr. DURENBERGER. Mr. President, the House version of the budget reconciliation bill (H.R. 2264) allows four States to obtain waivers from certain provisions in the Employee Retirement Income Security Act [ERISA]. My home State of Minnesota is one of those four.

The waiver provision that applies to Minnesota would exempt the provider tax—a 2 percent tax on net receipts of medical care providers enacted last year in Minnesota. This tax is currently under a challenge in court from labor unions who do not want the tax to apply to them.

The waiver contained in the House bill would insulate the provider tax from an ERISA challenge for a 2-year period and, presumably, dispose of the labor union lawsuit.

I oppose selective waivers.

If we need to amend the law, and many have argued that we do, we must do so explicitly with a full airing of all its permutations.

Many other States have provider taxes of various kinds, and I am sure others would desire waivers. If ERISA is such a problem for States, why should only four get an advantage?

We should address ERISA issues in the context of comprehensive health reform. Millions of Americans are covered by plans affected by ERISA and thousands of employers have relied upon its provisions in designing their health benefit programs.

Until the Federal Government acts on comprehensive health reform, States will try to expand access to their uninsured populations. I recognize their frustrations. But this argues neither for provider taxes nor for ERISA waivers. It argues for comprehensive Federal action.

Minnesota is a clearly recognized leader in health care. Most of the leadership has come in the private sector, with extraordinarily creative activities among health care providers and forward-looking business organizations, including larger self-funded employers and smaller Taft-Hartley employers as examples.

Now the government of the State of Minnesota has started looking at ways to expand access and has instituted its net receipts tax to finance it. The business community in Minnesota does not object to the tax as defined in the MNCare legislation. They have been paying it and expect to continue to pay it. And the Minnesota attorney general's office expects the union challenge to be defeated. So the need for this legislation for Minnesota is questionable.

But there is a more important principle at stake here than my State's self-interest. Ultimately, the Federal Government must take a leadership role in health reform. It is better to do nothing than to do health reform badly. The approach in the House version is an example of poorly conceived, piecemeal policymaking.

I will use my powers of persuasion as well as my vote to defeat this provision in the U.S. Senate. •

**TRIBUTE TO TOYOTA PLANT IN GEORGETOWN**

• Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to the Toyota Motor Manufacturing plant in Georgetown, KY. The plant continues to set a standard of excellence which automobile manufacturers worldwide should strive to duplicate.

In a recent quality survey by J.D. Power & Associates, the Georgetown facility was named the best North

American auto factory. The survey—which ranked the Scott County plant third last year—was based on questionnaires answered by more than 45,000 consumers after 90 days of vehicle ownership.

The survey also gave the plant another top honor—one of its products, the Toyota Camry sedan, tied for fourth in Power's initial quality survey. That honor placed the Camry above any other car built in North America.

Toyota Motor Manufacturing in Georgetown employs more than 4,000 people, 98 percent of whom are from Kentucky. Last year, the plant produced 212,700 Camry sedans and 27,300 wagons. I have visited the Toyota plant and have gotten a firsthand look at the facility in production. There is no question that its success can be directly attributed to the hard work and dedication of its employees.

Kentucky is fortunate to have three quality automobile manufacturers in the State. Toyota Motor Manufacturing, the General Motors Corvette plant in Bowling Green, and the Ford Explorer plant in Louisville, set a standard of excellence other manufacturers should strive to emulate.

I congratulate the employees of Toyota Motor Manufacturing in Georgetown for earning this recognition, and for turning out one of the best cars in America. All Kentuckians should take pride in this achievement.

Mr. President, please insert my comments as well as an article from the Lexington Herald-Leader into today's CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

**GEORGETOWN TOYOTA PLANT JUDGED BEST AUTO FACTORY IN NORTH AMERICA**

(By Todd Pack)

The Toyota plant in Georgetown has taken the checkered flag in a widely watched automotive survey of new cars and trucks.

The plant was judged the best North American auto factory by the California marketing firm J.D. Power & Associates. Last year it was third.

A car made in Georgetown, the Camry sedan, tied for fourth in Power's Initial Quality Survey. That was better than any other car built in North America.

Toyota Motor Corp. dominated the awards, announced yesterday in the firm's newsletter, The Power Report. Toyota or Lexus, its luxury car nameplate, finished first in all but two categories, including one in which no vehicle exceeded the industry average.

And another of Toyota's facilities—in Cambridge, Ontario, where it makes Corollas—finished third among assembly plants, behind the General Motors Corp. pickup plant in Fort Wayne, Ind.

According to the survey, the Georgetown plant registered 80 problems for every 100 cars.

The industry average is 107, 13 automakers exceeded that mark and 19 were below it.

Georgetown's success "comes down to our people," plant manager Mike Daprile said.

"It was teamwork in every section, everyone working together to build the best car they can build."

The plant which employs 4,400 people, rolled out 212,700 Camry sedans and 27,300 wagons last year.